What is claimed is:

1.   A method of obtaining data from a global communication network comprising the steps of:

    A. Providing a general purpose computer, wherein said general purpose computer is adapted to establish a communication link with at least one other computer over a global communication network;

    B. Establishing a communication link between said general purpose computer and a central server computer through said global communication network;

    C. Using a computer program enabling a user of said general purpose computer to select a type of data to receive;

    D. Inputing said type of data into said general purpose computer;

    E. Communicating said type of data to said central server computer;

    F. Receiving at least a portion of a database from said central server to said general purpose computer, wherein said portion of a database comprises at least one URL;

    G. Establishing a communication link with said at least one URL provided by said central server computer;

    H. Polling said at least one URL for said data;

    I. Receiving information from said at least one URL;

    J. Comparing said information from said at least one URL with said selected type of data;

    K. Determining when said type of data is available from said at least one URL; and

L.   Receiving said data when said data is available from said URL.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said type of received data comprises streaming audio.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said type of data comprises streaming video.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said type of data comprises a combination of streaming audio and streaming video.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said portion of a database further comprises time data indicating when said type of data will be available to general purpose computers.

6.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of recording said data on a storage media.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said storage media is a hard drive.

8.   The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of encoding said data, wherein said encoded data is available only to the general purpose computer which received or recorded said data.

9.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing said data to a user from said general purpose computer through at least one of a monitor, television and speaker.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein said data is available in portions over time and said general purpose computer receives said data in real time as it is available from said at least one URL.

11.   A method of obtaining data comprising the steps of:

A.   Establishing a database comprising URLs and at least one of the following types of data:

a. Work of Authorship

b. Author

c. Time of Webcast;

B. Establishing a communication link with at least one of said URLs;

C. Updating said database with information provided by said at least one of said URLs;

D. Receiving a request for data from a user of a general purpose computer;

E. Polling said updated database for said requested data;

F. Comparing said updated database with said request for data;

M. Determining when said data is available from said at least one URL; and

G. Receiving said data from said URL when said data matches said request and when said data is available from said URL.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said received data comprises streaming audio.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said type of data comprises streaming video.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said type of data comprises a combination of streaming audio and streaming video.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said data is made available to a user of said general purpose computer.

16. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of recording said data on a storage media.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said storage media is a hard drive.

CIH-100US

18.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of encoding said data, wherein said encoded data is available only to the user of said general purpose computer.

19.   The method of claim 11, wherein said data is available in portions over time and said central server computer receives said data in real time as it is available from said at least one URL.

20.   A method of obtaining data from a global communication network comprising the steps of:

A.   Providing a general purpose computer, wherein said general purpose computer is adapted to establish a communication link with at least one other computer over a global communication network;

B.   Generating a database of at URLs on said general purpose computer, wherein said URLs are capable of providing data to said general purpose computer over said global communication network;

C.   Using a computer program enabling a user of said general purpose computer to select a type of data to receive;

D.   Inputing said type of data into said general purpose computer;

E.   Establishing a communication link between said general purpose computer and at least one URL;

F.   Polling said at least one URL for said data;

G.   Receiving information from said at least one URL;

H.   Comparing said information from said at least one URL with said selected type of data;

I.   Determining when said data is available from said at least one URL; and

J.   Receiving said data when 1) said data matches the type of data to receive and 2) is available from said URL.